*Monthly summary for* ***Nursery Unit*** *: January, 2011*

The excitement of the Keepers as they greeted the onset of 2011 on New Year ’s Day was not lost on “Sities”, who instantly sensed that this must be a celebratory day and ran up and down the compound, encouraging all the others to do the same! However, the demise of baby “Wasin” on the 8th January 2011 dampened everyone’s spirits and was a bitter blow to all, especially the Keepers, and “Mutara” and little “Naipoki”, who were closest to her. Wasin had always been a fragile baby, who suffered and struggled to cut her first molars. Nevertheless the loss of a Nursery baby is always emotionally devastating and a painful process that never gets any easier, even after so many years! Rest in Peace little Wasin, amongst others who have gone before you, and are now at peace somewhere in the Great Somewhere.  
  
Otherwise it has been a peaceful and happy month for the Nursery elephants, but for the presence of the Nairobi Park lions on the 30th, five of which blocked the path the orphans normally use on their way out into the bush to browse every day. **Olare**, Murka and Mutara were about to charge them, but were restrained by the Keepers until one of the lions roared triggering an elephant stampede back to the Stockades, Kudup the fastest runner! That night more than the five who had been seen that morning circled the Elephant Stockades all night, terrifying the elephant occupants, who either tried to climb into the Keepers’ beds, or break down the door in order to escape. In the end the Keepers had to position themselves outside each door to demonstrate to the elephants that they were there to protect them, but nevertheless, all were nervous wrecks in the morning. Murka, who usually downs her milk feeds rapidly, even abstained!  
  
First to venture out at dawn was **Olare**, who then went round every stable and stockade just to check that each and every member of her “herd” was still intact! Thereafter all were hesitant about venturing out into the bush that day, and when they eventually did pluck up sufficient courage to do so, clung close to the Keepers! Since then extra lighting has been installed around the Stockades which hopefully will act as a lion deterrent! Whenever the lions are around, the resident warthogs are conspicuous by their absence, all sheltering in the KWS Staff compound and even crossing the main road to remain in the grounds of the Post Office and the Banda School!  
  
Little Naipoki is now the Nursery favourite, deeply loved by Mutara and more recently by Makireti, who has been paying her special attention in competition with Mutara. **Olare** is a very competent main Nursery Matriarch, who has her work cut out keeping the boys in line, especially Chemi Chemi who is still his usual “pushy” self and who enjoys trying to mount onto the smaller girls! Kibo and Kandecha spend hours sparring with one another, and are best friends, until Kibo unwisely tried to mount Kandecha, which triggered a fierce fight. Even **Olare** could not separate the warring parties so the Keepers had to intervene. Although Kibo is older and stronger than Kandecha, Kandecha has longer tusks and used them during the altercation, which left Kibo mad! Chemi Chemi seems to have taken a shine to Kalama, who appears absolved from his Pushing List!

Below are the last five entries for **Olare** in the daily review of the Keeper's Diary:

Total listings found: 158  
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| --- | --- |
| Date | Entry |
| 2/28/2011 | On their way out to browse today, the orphans ran into a herd of impalas. Immediately **Olare** ran to protect Naipoki, while Mutara did the same for Kainuk. Kainuk loves Mutara, putting her trunk into Mutara’s mouth as she would that of her mother.   |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/34201182510-pic1.jpg | | Kainuk out with the others |  |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/34201182511-pic2.jpg | | Tano with Naipoki | |
| 2/27/2011 | After the 3 p.m. milk feed, little Naipoki began chasing the warthogs, **Olare** following close behind to ensure that Naipoki was not targeted by one of the warthog mothers. Whilst **Olare** was so occupied, Mutara took control of Kainuk.   |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/34201182212-pic1.jpg | | Darling Naipoki |  |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/34201182213-pic2.jpg | | Mutara on the left with Turkwel | |
| 2/25/2011 | All the babies woke up in a jovial mood, running and trumpeting as they headed out into the bush. Today, being Friday, was the day when all have coconut oil rubbed on their skin, so it was the first time for Kainuk. Afterwards, she enjoyed rolling in the grass and playing in the dust, with **Olare** supervising her every move. In the afternoon the Vet arrived to take blood from Kudup and Turkwel, who have not been thriving as they should.   |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/34201181538-pic1.jpg | | Turkwel |  |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/34201181539-pic2.jpg | | Kainuk covered in oil |  |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/34201181539-pic3.jpg | | Kudup having a rest | |
| 2/24/2011 | Kainuk has settled down incredibly rapidly. The day after she came into the Nursery she was out and about with all the other elephants, with **Olare** and Mutara lavishing attention upon her. Kainuk and Naipoki are now the two babies that the older females care for most. Although very thin and still weak, little Kainuk is doing very well, taking all her milk feeds, as well as water, and her stools are still fine after having been given homeopathic stomach remedies.   |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/34201181247-pic1.jpg | | Kainuk amongst the other orphans |  |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/34201181247-pic2.jpg | | Kainuk with Tano and Makireti on the left | |
| 2/22/2011 | Today the Nursery received a new orphan, a yearling female from the South Turkana National Reserve who was found standing beside her dead mother. She has been named “Kainuk” – the name of the place where she was found, and although very traumatized and aggressive, hungrily took milk and water from a bottle in between pushing the Keeper around the stable! When the orphans, as usual, were let out of their Night Stockades, at 6.15 in the morning, **Olare** and Mutara waited behind at the compound waiting for little Naipoki to emerge. **Olare** is the main Nursery Matriarch, and very caring of all the orphans, but Mutara is her deputy, who is likely to take over when **Olare** leaves the Nursery for the Ithumba Rehabilitation Centre, which will be later on in the year after the next rains, probably in May or June.   |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/3420118552-pic1.jpg | | The new orphan Kainuk |  |  | | --- | | http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/../keepers_diary/3420118552-pic2.jpg | | Olare and Mutara | |